[Translation]

Clearance of Licence Proposals

4289. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared several licence proposals received from Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the priority is likely to be given to set up these industries in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of capital investment likely to be made in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). During the period from January, 1994 to November, 1996, a total number of 164 Letters of Intent have been granted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for setting up industries in various parts of Uttar Pradesh. The details are published in the Monthly News Letter of the Indian Investment Centre, copies of which are regularly sent to Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial atmosphere and provide infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/District.

(e) Does not arise.

Recovery of Bad Debts in U.P.

4290. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy and programmes formulated for recovery of the bad debts by the banks; and

(b) the extent to which it has been proved successful in recovering the bad debt in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised banks to have documents of investment policy, loan policy, loan recovery policy, etc., prepared and vetted by their Boards of Directors. Accordingly each bank has adopted a loan recovery policy which prescribes the manner of recovery, targetted level of reduction in NPAS norms for permitted sacrifice/waiver, etc. The policy formulations include reduction of NPAs through compromise/write-off proposals, setting up of recovery cells, establishment of Debt Recovery Tribunals and compilation and circulation of list of defaulters/suit-filed accounts.

(b) RBI's data-reporting system does not generate state-wise position of the recovery of NPAs. However, the percentage of Non-Performing Assets to total advances of the Public Sector Banks has come down from 24.78% during 1993-94 to 19.45% during 1994-95 and further to 17.12% during 1995-96.

[English]

Patent of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant

4291. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether India has patented the plants before allowing the genetic resources to go out of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has allowed a US based company to import medicinal and aromatic plants from India for tissue-culture;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these plants are likely to be patented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a), (b) and (e). As per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, plants are not potentable in India.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Finance Minister's Visit to Japan

4292. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the recent visit of Finance Minister to Japan;

(b) whether Union Government signed any agreement with Government of Japan or any other agency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Finance Minister recently visited Japan to address two investment seminers on India. He also met senior Japanese Ministers and the Chairman of a number of Japanese companies.

(b) and (c). No agreement was signed during the visit.

[Translation]

Capital Formation Question

4293. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steps taken for boosting capital formation have proved successful;